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ABSTRACT

Each year the Cooperative Institutional Research program of the American Council of Education publishes national normative data on characteristics of first-time, fulltime freshmen college students. This report compares the national 4-year college norms with the norms of Fort Hays Kansas State College and analyzes these norms statistically to identify areas which are significantly different. The responses of FHKSC freshmen differed significantly from the national norms on questions pertaining to: distance from home to college; highest degree planned; education of parents; and credit hours taken during the fall semester, in addition to some other questions. (MJM)

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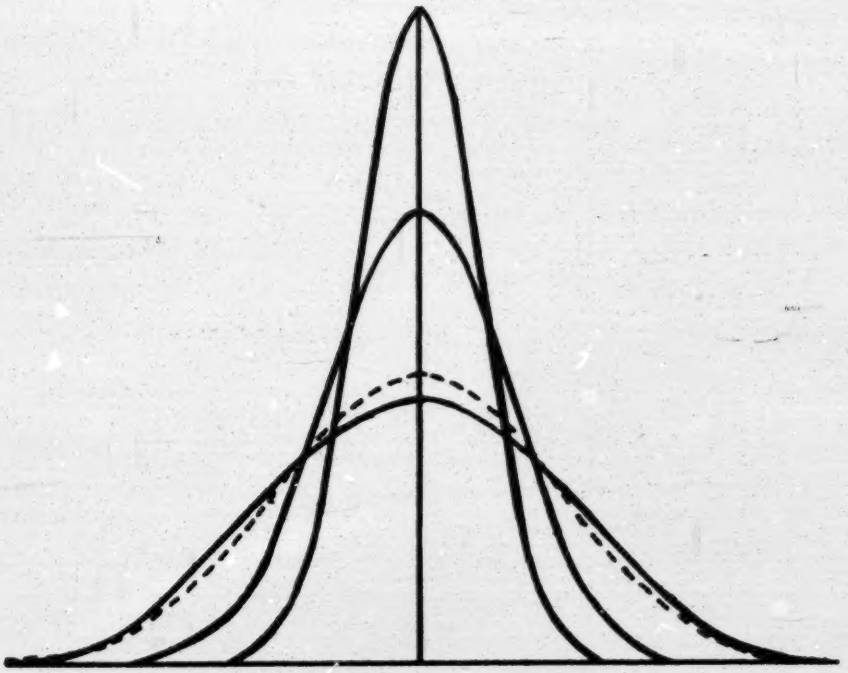
FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE AND OTHER FOUR YEAR COLLEGES: A COMPARISON OF ENTERING FRESHMEN FALL 1973



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FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE AND OTHER FOUR YEAR COLLEGES

A COMPARISON OF ENTERING FRESHMEN

FALL 1973

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August 1974

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FORT HAYS KANSAS STATE COLLEGE AND OTHER FOUR YEAR COLLEGES

A COMPARISON OF ENTERING FRESHMEN

Fall 1973

Each year the Cooperative Institutional Research program of the American Council on Education publishes national normative data on characteristics of first-time, full-time freshman college students. This study helps determine: (1) the effects of colleges on students, and (2) the changes from year to year which indicate new trends among college freshmen.

The national four year college norms are compared with the norms of Fort Hays Kansas State College and analyzed statistically to identify areas which are significantly different. Due to the large sample size of Fort Hays State and the national sample, it was appropriate to use a z-test to determine significance at the 95% or higher confidence level. The z-test was used only on the total (men and women) column.

The responses of Fort Hays State freshmen differed significantly from the national norms on questions pertaining to: distance from home to college; highest degree planned; education of parents; and credit hours taken during the fall semester in addition to some other questions.

National norms indicated that 78.3% of the freshmen were 18 years of age. At FHKSC the percentage of 18 year old freshmen was 87.8% (Table 1).

While the national norms indicated 15.9% of the freshmen were 51-100 miles from their homes to their college, 32.5% of Fort Hays' freshmen were from this distance. Also the national average showed 12.8% coming from more than 500 miles, and at FHKSC only 0.7% came from more than 500 miles (Table 1).

The number of college applications submitted was significantly different for those freshmen applying to one college only. The number of college acceptances, however, differed in two categories: (1) one college only and (2) three others (Table 2).

Among 412 FHKSC freshmen, 43.4% intended to earn a bachelors degree, but nationally only 26.8% said they anticipated getting a bachelors degree. Another difference existed at the doctoral degree level. Only 4.4% of Fort Hays State's freshmen planned to work on a doctoral degree, while 13.5% of all freshmen planned to do so (Table 2).

When the freshmen were asked what the highest degree they planned to earn at FHKSC, their replies agreed with national norms in each area except the bachelors degree (Table 2).

The freshmen noted some reasons as very important for attending the college of their choice. Some freshmen wanted to live away from home. Others cited a good academic reputation as important. Still, others indicated an interest in a special education program (Table 3).

Finances are a very important aspect of going to college, and the income of the students at FHKSC varied little from the income of students across the nation. Also the income of the parents of students at FHKSC and across the nation were nearly the same (Table 4).

A young person's educational plans are influenced somewhat by his parents educational background. It is interesting to note that, of 538 FHKSC respondents, 44.6% said their father was a high school graduate, 10.8% said their father was a college graduate, and 5.4% indicated that their father held a graduate degree. National norms indicated 25.5%, 18.2% and 14.5% for a high school graduate, a college graduate and a graduate degree respectively. Fort Hays State freshmen also indicated that 4.8% of

their mothers had some high school, 45.8% were high school graduates, 21.3% had some college and 9.6% held a college degree. Across the nation, the freshmen indicated that 10.5% of their mothers had some high school, 39.9% were high school graduates, 15.6% had some college, and 15.0% held a college degree (Table 5).

When asked about a probable career, the freshmen showed interest in business, medicine, education, forestry and law. They also disclosed that their probable major field of study would lie in agriculture, biological science, business, engineering, health professions, and social sciences to list a few. Some of the reasons cited for these choices were availability of a job, rapid advancement, independence, chance for steady progress, to make contributions to society, to avoid pressure, to work with ideas, to work with people and an intrinsic interest in their chosen field (Tables 5 and 6).

The credit hour load per semester at FHKSC varied somewhat from national norms. While national averages showed 6.0% of the freshmen taking more than 18 hours, FHKSC had 0.6% taking more than 18 hours. Also 54.2% of FHKSC freshmen were carrying 12 to 15 hours while the national norms showed 45.7% of all four year college freshmen were enrolled in 12 to 15 hours (Table 6).

Tables 7, 8, and 9 compare such things as residence during the fall semester; current religious preference, scholarships and grants; federally insured or college loans; objectives considered to be essential or very important; political orientation; a variety of issues from politics, education and society; and students accomplishments in college.

The following tables list some of the questions asked and the responses given by freshmen at Fort Hays State and by freshmen at other

four year colleges (N = 243) throughout the United States. These tables are composed of only those questions in which the responses of Fort Hays State freshmen were statistically different from national norms.

TABLE 1

Age and Distance from Home to College

Item	No. of Respondents	Fort Hays State			Four-Year College National Norms		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
No. of students	544	38.1	61.9	100.0	49.1	50.9	100.0
Age by Dec. 31,73	543						
16 or younger				0.0			0.1
17				2.4			4.8
18				87.8			78.3*
19				8.5			14.3
20				0.4			1.2
21				0.4			0.3
22				0.2			0.2
23-25				0.0			0.4
26-29				0.0			0.1
30 or older				0.4			0.2
Distance From Home to College	541						
5 miles or less				12.0			7.6
6-10 miles				2.2			8.2
11-50 miles				16.6			19.9
51-100 miles				32.5			15.9*
101-500 miles				35.9			35.6
more than 500 miles				0.7			12.8*

*p < .05

TABLE 2

Number of College Applications and Acceptances
and Highest Degree Planned Here

Item	Respondents	FHKSC	Four-Year College National Norms
No. of College Applications	539		
this college only		67.3	37.2*
one other		17.1	20.9
two others		12.2	17.6
three others		3.2	11.3
four others		0.2	6.4
five others		0.0	3.6
more than five others		0.0	3.1
No. of College Acceptances	402		
this college only		59.5	32.8*
one other		21.9	27.1
two others		15.9	20.7
three others		2.5	11.1*
four others		0.2	4.8
five others		0.0	2.0
more than five others		0.0	1.5
Highest Degree Planned Here	495		
none		9.9	4.9
associate		4.6	3.2
bachelor's (B.A., B.S.)		67.3	76.1*
master's (M.A., M.S.)		11.9	11.3
Ph.D. or Ed.D.		1.4	1.4
M.D., D.D., D.D.S., or D.V.M.		0.4	0.9
L.L.B. or J.D.		0.4	0.7
B.D. or M.Div		0.0	0.1
Other		4.0	1.4

*$p < .05$

TABLE 3

Highest Degree Planned Anywhere and Important Factors
In Choosing this College

Item	No. of Respondents	FHKSC	Four-Year College National Norms
Highest Degree Planned Anywhere	412		
none		6.1	2.5
associate		3.6	1.3
bachelor's		43.4	26.8*
master's		33.7	38.7
Ph.D. or Ed.D.		4.1	13.5*
M.D.		4.4	8.8
L.L.B.		2.2	6.1
B.D. or M.Div.		0.2	0.5
other		2.2	1.9
Reasons Noted as Very Important in Selecting this College			
parents wanted me to come here	538	10.2	8.8
wanted to live away from home	533	11.6	20.5*
teacher advised me	528	5.9	5.7
has a good academic reputation	537	35.4	57.0*
offered financial assistance	531	17.1	22.3
advice of someone who attended	544	33.5	20.9
offers special educ. program	528	23.5	31.5*
has low tuition	532	15.4	19.2
advice of guidance councelor	531	6.6	9.4
wanted to live at home	528	7.4	8.6
could not get a job	525	2.7	1.7

*$p < .05$

TABLE 4

Student Income and Parents Income

Item	No. of Respondents	FHKSC	Four-Year College National Norms
Total Income Last Year Independent of Parents	529		
none		22.1	19.3
less than $500		35.0	32.3
$500-$999		19.1	23.9*
$1000-$1999		17.4	16.5
$2000-$2999		4.2	4.7
$3000-$4999		1.7	2.0
$5000-$9999		0.4	0.9
$10000 or more		0.2	0.4
Estimated Parental Income	494		
less than $3000		2.2	3.3
$3000-$3999		2.0	2.7
$4000-$5999		6.9	4.3
$6000-$7999		10.1	6.0
$8000-$9999		14.2	8.1*
$10,000-$12,499		18.6	14.7
$12,500-$14,999		15.2	13.7
$15,000-$19,999		13.2	17.3
$20,000-$24,999		7.7	11.7
$25,000-$29,999		3.4	5.7
$30,000-$34,999		2.6	4.1
$35,000-$39,999		1.0	2.3
$40,000-$49,999		1.0	3.2
$50,000 or more		1.8	3.8

*$p < .05$

TABLE 5

Parents' Education and Probable Career

Item	No. of Respondents	FHKSC	Four-Year College National Norms
Father's Education	538		
grammar school or less		8.7	6.5
some high school		8.9	12.4
high school graduate		44.6	25.5*
post-secondary other than college		2.8	4.9
some college		17.1	15.2
college degree		10.8	18.2*
some graduate school		1.7	2.8
graduate degree		5.4	14.5*
Mother's Education	539		
grammar school or less		6.1	3.8
some high school		4.8	10.5*
high school graduate		45.8	39.9*
post-secondary other than college		7.4	7.6
some college		21.3	15.6*
college degree		9.6	15.0*
some graduate school		1.3	2.5
graduate degree		3.5	5.1
Probable Career Occupation+	488		
business (other)		13.5	7.0*
doctor (M.D. or D.D.S)		2.9	6.3*
educator (secondary)		9.0	6.4*
educator (elementary)		4.7	6.0*
farmer or forester		7.4	1.8*
lawyer		2.5	5.4*
nurse		9.8	3.2*

*$p < .05$

+Portions of this table have been omitted.

TABLE 6

Probable Major, Reasons for Career Choice and Student Load

Item	No. of Respondents	FHKSC	Four-Year College National Norms
Probable Major Field of Study+	497		
agriculture (incl. forestry)		6.0	1.4*
biological sciences		4.0	7.9*
business		20.9	13.4*
engineering		1.6	5.1*
health professions		15.3	8.8*
social sciences (other)		3.0	6.7*
Reasons Checked as Very Important for Long-Term Career Choice+			
job opening available	507	55.8	50.1*
rapid advancement	500	26.8	32.3*
independence	503	29.2	38.6*
chance for steady progress	501	36.5	46.6*
contribution to Society	504	43.1	52.3*
avoid pressure	502	11.6	16.8*
work with ideas	502	37.8	51.2*
be helpful to others	502	61.0	66.6*
work with people	502	59.6	65.3*
intrinsic interest in field	499	63.5	72.4*
Credit hours to be taken during Fall term+	520		
more than 18 hours		0.6	6.0*
12-15 hours		54.2	45.7*

*$p < .05$

+Portions of this table have been omitted

TABLE 7

Residence, Religion, Scholarships and Loans

Item	No. of Respondents	FHKSC	Four-Year College National Norms
Residence during fall term+	540		
with parents or relatives		17.4	23.8*
college dormitory		79.6	71.8*
Current Religious Preference+	541		
Baptist		6.1	14.4*
Jewish		0.0	4.2*
Lutheran		11.1	5.3*
Methodist		29.4	10.9*
Catholic		29.2	31.6
None		3.5	9.8
Scholarships or Grants+	399		
none		62.9	52.6*
$1000-$1999		4.5	10.4*
$2000-$4000		0.5	4.6*
over $4000		0.3	2.3*
Federally Ins. or College Loans+	391		
$1000-$1999		6.1	10.0*

*p < .05

+Portions of this table have been omitted.

TABLE 8

Important Objectives, Miscellaneous Questions and Political Orientation

Item	No. of Respondents	FHKSC	Four-Year College National Norms
Objectives Considered to be Essential or Very Important+			
achieve in a performing act	531	17.1	21.5*
be an authority in my field	534	52.4	63.8*
influence political structure	531	9.6	15.6*
influence social values	532	27.4	33.2*
raise a family	532	51.9	56.5*
be very well-off financially	533	45.2	51.6*
help others in difficulty	533	63.0	67.6*
be involved in environ. cleanup	534	24.2	33.8*
develop philosophy of life	531	62.1	72.5*
keep up with political affairs	534	38.0	45.0*
Agree Strongly or Somewhat+			
gov't. not protecting consumer	535	73.1	77.8*
marijuana should be legalized	534	26.6	46.6*
can do little to change society	532	30.3	39.4*
benefits of college is monetary	534	62.2	50.3*
regulate student publications	532	42.3	29.6*
college has right to ban speaker	531	29.6	22.9*
adopt open admissions at public college	531	50.5	28.7*
use same degree standard for all	529	85.6	77.4*
Political Orientation+	531		
far left		0.4	2.1*
liberal		26.7	33.4*
middle-of-the-road		62.3	49.1*
conservative		10.2	14.9*

*$p < .05$

+Portions of this table have been omitted.

TABLE 9

Student Activities

Item	No. of Respondents	FHKSC	Four-Year College National Norms
Students Estimate Chances are Very Good That They Will+			
graduate with honors	529	4.9	9.8*
join a social fraternity or sorority	533	11.1	17.1*
live in a co-educational dorm	533	7.5	20.6*
be elected to an honor society	531	1.7	5.3*
make at least a "B" average	531	31.8	36.0*
work at outside job	531	36.2	28.8*
seek individual counseling	528	3.0	6.4*
enroll in honors courses	528	3.8	8.4*
get a bachelors degree	532	53.6	74.9*
transfer to another college	520	10.6	13.6*
be more successful than most	524	13.5	17.9*
marry while in college	524	12.0	6.8*

*$p < .05$

+Portions of this table have been omitted.